Dr. Joey's Computer RX

The Doctor's RX

888 361-0509

Its Time for a PC Checkup

Who hasn't made the resolution to get in better shape for the new year? Media ads tell us how to eat better, exercise more, and lose weight.. Dr.'s encourage us to have annual check ups. Why not? Our bodies are complex machines that need to be properly maintained.

PC maintenance might not rank with preventing physical disease or saving your life but it will go a long way toward improving your quality of life and protecting your livelihood.

Most of us now depend on our computers to manage the details of our life. We keep track of our appointments, manage our finances, write & store our correspondence, and archive our family pictures & videos. I operate my entire business off a single laptop!

Now, imagine for a horrifying moment that you turn your computer on, like you always do, and nothing happens….

It's dead. You can't check your email or bank balance. You can't retrieve that phone number or look up that address.

At best, your life screeches to a halt. At worst, everything you have ever saved on your computer is now gone — forever.

This is why preventative PC maintenance check ups are so

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important. It gives us a chance to diagnose issues that may lead to computer failure and data loss before they occur.

A single malfunctioning fan can result in overheating issues that will fry your CPU or crash your hard drive. A single virus can cripple your PC and irretrievably corrupt your data. Software degradation can slow your computer to a crawl and make the simplest computing tasks a long, drawn-out nightmare.
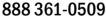
If you have owned your com-

puter for more than a year or it has been a year since your last maintenance, it's time for a pc checkup.

With my **basic tune up**, I'll check out your hardware, tune up your existing software configuration, remove viruses, and install software upgrades.

With my **advanced tune up**, I'll do the above and reinstall all your software. and make it run as well as it ever did!

Call Dr. Joey today, toll free, 888 361-0509

Maximum PC Performance

If you really want to boost your PCs performance you should consider a memory upgrade!

I worked on a system last week that took over 4 minutes just to boot up. After a basic tune and a 1 GB memory upgrade, it sprung to life

in less than two minutes! That is more than double its original performance!

Memory prices have dropped so low, *most computers can have a 1 GB memory chip added for around $50.* Prices vary based on specific system requirements.

Not every computer will realize doubled performance. However, a memory upgrade is one of the best shortcuts to make your computer perform faster than it ever has before.

See my ad in this issue or call Dr. Joey toll free at 888 361-0509f or more information, .

Check List for Keeping Your Computer Healthy

When a computer finds its way to me, it's usually a pretty sick puppy. Often, its infected with some kind of malware, but usually there is problem that could have been avoided with a little preventative maintenance. Here's a checklist for keeping your computer healthy (and out of my shop).

1. Keep your computer area free from contaminants. Liquid is electronics' worst nightmare. Just a little slosh of coffee on your notebook keyboard and it's history. Keep all liquids away from your PC.

2. Make sure your computer is well-ventilated. Your PC needs to circulate fresh air to keep it cool. Heat damage can ruin your CPU and your HDD. For *desktops* this means that you need to make sure the air and fan vents are clear of obstructions and dust.

Clumps of dust can be vacuumed away with your vacuum's brush attachment. Don't enclose your PC in tight cabinets unless you provide for adequate ventilation.

You should always be sure your *notebook is* on a flat surface. *Notebooks* have little rubber "feet" that allow them table clearance for ventilation. Often air is drawn from the bottom and blown from the back of the PC. Despite their name, if you rest your *laptop* on your lap or a blanket, you will defeat the cooling mechanism. A lap tray or special notebook cooling fans ($20-$30) will protect your PC.

4. Run regular disk checks and defrag your HDD. Sometimes there is nothing you can do to prevent HDD failure. However, regular disk checks will clue you in on pending problems. The disk defrag is primarily to keep you computer performing at it's peak. It is a necessity, if you use your PC a lot.

4. Keep your anti-virus and spyware software up-to-date. If you don't use anti-malware software, you are playing with fire. There are free programs available that can give you basic coverage. Google "free AVG" and you'll get a link to AVG's free download. I'll try to put some good links on my website as well.

5. Keep your Microsoft Office and Windows software up-to-date. You can use *Window's Update* to schedule regular automatic updates — including important security updates. If you don't know how to do this, search for "Windows Update" in your start menu search bar.

6. Back up! Back up! Back up! Problems **will** occur, the only question is whether you'll be ready! Back up you data at least weekly. Daily is better if you use your PC for business.

7. Watch for warning signs. Slowed PC activity, constant need for reboots, sudden auto reboots, delayed shut down, unexplained data loss, inability to open files, frequent error messages, noisy fans or no fan noise are all warning signs of trouble on the way.

8. Get regular PC checkups. Dr. Joey recommends at least once a year check ups. More, if you depend on your computer for business. I continue to offer $25 discounts on both my Basic and Advanced Tune ups. See my ad or call (888) 361-0509.

What's New with Dr. Joey's Computer RX

Online Store!

Have you visited my website recently?

Dr. Joey has partnered with Amazon.com to offer you the benefits of their purchasing power and easy check out with the convenience and dependability you have come to expect from Dr. Joey. My direct link is listed below: www.drjoeyscomputerrx.com/store.html.

Web Services!

Dr. Joey now offers **web hosting services** and **web page design** at prices anyone can afford.

If you need web hosting services., you can rent your site, domain, and personalized email addresses from Dr. Joey for **under $10 a month** (yearly contract).

If your business or church needs someone to design their website or blog. **Prices start at only $100**.

FREE!
Customized
WEB PAGES

Have you ever wished you could have your own **personalized web page** that had all your favorite links, search engines, email sign-ons, family pictures, weather, sports, news, etc. I **will design it for FREE.** It will NEVER cost you a penny. **Call for details (888) 361-0509**.

Ask Dr. Joey

"Which Antivirus Program Do You Recommend?"

Question: *"Dr. Joey, Which antivirus program do you recommend?"*

P.K., Birmingham, AL

Answer: *That is a difficult question — not because of a lack of good antivirus software, but because there are so many good products*

The best selling product on the market is **Norton Anti-Virus.** *I have used Norton in the past and have been reasonably*

pleased with its performance. My only complaint was that, to me, it seemed to slow down my computer. I found myself turning it off for better performance, but then I ended up defeating the whole purpose of antivirus software.

The second-best selling product is **McAfee Anti-virus**. *I used this product for years and actually preferred it to Norton. The only reason I*

don't use it now is cost. It is reasonably priced– much like the others, but why pay $40+ a year for a product when similar ones are available for free..

I am now using the **free** version of **AVG by Grisoft**. Sure, it lacks some of the bells and whistles of full security suites like Norton and McAfee, but in 2-3 years of use, I have yet to have a problem. There are some limitations, though.

One major limitation is that the free version is not licensed for business use.

AVG does have a full-featured version that retails for about the same price as the others. It is as good— give or take — as the more popular ones..

Conclusion? Why buy when you can get great protection for free. When I do a tune up, if the customer has expired or no antivirus protection, I usually install AVG Free. However, you really can't go wrong with any of these choices.

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Check out our website!

www.drjoeyscomputerrx.com

**Dr. Joey's
Computer RX**

"We Make House Calls!"

I am Dr. Joey and I'm the owner of Dr. Joey's Computer RX. I started this business in order to provide quality in-home and on-site computer solutions at reasonable prices.

I am located in Birmingham, AL and provide sales and service for Birmingham and its outlying areas. I have over 25 years experience working with home and business systems.

Whether you are looking for a new computer, upgrading an older one, or have need for tune up, repair, or consulting services, I can provide the prescription for you!

I can also provide the RX for your digital transfer needs. I can transfer your old home movies (film or video) to DVD. The same is true for music transfer. I can move your old LPs, tapes, etc. to CD or MP3.